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NOTES.

ANTHROPOMETRY AND EXPERIMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY.[1]

Mr. Francis Galton has kindly allowed me to publish the following letter. I do so with the more pleasure, as I am in it acquitted, at least by implication, of the wish to disparage Anthropometry, with which certain correspondents have credited me.

"April, 24, 1893.

"The coarse, off-hand methods of such an anthropometric laboratory as mine, could never be worked in immediate conjunction with those required for experimental psychology, without interfering seriously with them. The one are speedy and suited to test many persons in succession, in a rough and preliminary way; the others take . . . great patience, practice and dexterity, and must be conducted in quietude. I hope that the skill and beauty of the latter methods will not be ruined by combining them too closely with the former. If I had to plan an exhibition to include the two, I should conduct the psychological part in a well-lighted, glazed enclosure; the on-lookers being in somewhat less well-lighted or in screened parts, and separated from the glass by interposed trellis-work. Then, the people at work in the laboratory would be in no way distracted by the outside gazers, and would indeed hardly perceive them. The persons operated on inside ought, I should think, to be *practised* experimentees, and the purport of the exhibition would be to show (1) the action of apparatus, (2) the uniformity of the results with the same person under similar conditions. It would not seem advisable to test anybody who applied, because the second of the above conditions would fail with novices, who are sure to blunder as well as to waste precious time.

"There are some half-way experiments that might require half-way treatment, such as the ± number of vibrations that give a sensibly higher or lower note to the standard key, and the limits of audibility to high and to low notes. In respect to sight, there could be managed . . . *matches*, either of illumination or of color. I fear that audibility tests would be really hopeless in such a noisy medium as a great Exhibition. Gustatory tests could be tried, perhaps: by using, say, different strengths of brine, dropping slowly from fine tubes. A man would put his hand out, and receive a drop, and lick it; then he would try another tap, and so on; his business being to put pegs 1, 2, 3, 4, representing successive increments of salinity, in the appropriate holes, opposite to the various taps. This would serve to show the *measurability* of taste, if it did nothing else. The sense of smell could, I fear, hardly be dealt with in a very simple way.

"I sincerely hope that some effort will be made to show *how to deal with the results*, and how to get good out of them."

E. B. TITCHENER.

[1] Phil. Review, II. pp. 187 ff.